

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COLOMB 01737 140647Z

22

ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-09 NEA-10 ISO-00 USIA-15 /051 W

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P 140550 MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4824

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MANILA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

UNCLAS COLOMBO 1737

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL

SUBJ: ARNOLD PALMER GLOBAL TOUR

REF: STATE 117589

1. ADVANCE MAN ROBERT LEWIS VISITED EMBASSY SOME DAYS AGO, OUTLINED PLANS FOR 45-MINUTE PALMER STOP EVENING MAY 18. HE HAD HIRED LOCAL ADVERTISING FIRM MAKE ARRANGEMENTS, DID NOT REQUIRE ANY PARTICULAR EMBASSY HELP. PLAN WAS TO INVITE REPRESENTATIVE CREW LOCAL GOLFERS, SPORTS ENTHUSIASTS, AND ARRANGE FOR PRESENCE OF ELEPHANT, LOCAL DANCERS, DRUMMERS, FOR PURPOSES OF FILMING SEGMENT FOR TV FILM TO BE PRODUCED LATER FOR US AUDIENCE.

2. LATER MDFA PHONED TO SAY SL EMBASSY WASHINGTON AS WELL AS LOCAL ADVERTISING FIRM HAD CONTACTED GOVERNMENT REGARDING LEVEL OF GSL ATTENDANCE AT PALMER STOP. PLAN HAD BEEN TO SEND MINISTER OF SPORTS, BUT SINCE HE WIL BE OUT OF COUNTRY, BELIEVE RANKING OFFICIAL WILL BE SECRETARY OF THAT MINISTRY, AND PERHAPS MAYOR OF COLOMBO. WE STRESSED PRIVATE NATURE OF FLIGHT TO MDFA.

3. WITH REGARD PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE, LEWIS EXPLAINED THAT PALMER HOPED TO TALK TO PRESIDENT FORD BY PHONE BEFORE DEPARTURE, SO AS TO BE ABLE TO SAY ORALLY AT HIS

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SEVERAL STOPS THAT PRESIDENT HAD ASKED HIM TO CONVEY
GREETINGS TO PEOPLE OF GIVEN COUNTRY.

4. ONLY PROBLEM LEWIS CAUSED HERE IN PRESS STORY
SECURING MUCH ADVANCE PUBLICITY FOR FLIGHT WAS HIS
INSISTENCE DESPITE EMBASSY ADVICE IN TELLING PRESS THAT
TEA AT BOSTON TEA PARTY HAD BEEN FROM CEYLON AND THEREFORE
PALMER WOULD BE CARRYING MESSAGE FROM MAYOR OF BOSTON ON
SUBJECT. TWO DAYS LATER NINTH GRADE SCHOOLGIRL PRIMLY
POINTED OUT TO PAPER EDITOR THAT NO TEA WAS GROWN IN
CEYLON AT THAT TIME. WE TRUST PALMER WILL NOT REVIVE THIS
PARTICULAR CLAIM.
PERKINS

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIRCRAFT PILOTS, JET AIRCRAFT, PUBLICITY CAMPAIGNS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 MAY 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976COLOMB01737
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D760186-0626
From: COLOMBO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t197605105/aaaaghp.f.tel
Line Count: 78
Locator: TEXT ON MICROFILM, TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION CU
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 117589
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CollinP0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 JUN 2004 by wolfsd>; APPROVED <24 JAN 2005 by CollinP0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> srp 970924
Subject: ARNOLD PALMER GLOBAL TOUR
TAGS: EAIR, SCUL, (PALMER, ARNOLD)
To: STATE
INFO JAKARTA
MULTIPLE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006